

THE CENTER

By Dale Hosman

Birthdays are special – yes, birthdays are fun.
They're time to celebrate our origin – and things we have done.
They're time to reflect on what our organization's become.
They're time to celebrate the many challenges overcome.

Pay and Personnel Center was the name we were assigned upon birth,
Topeka, Kansas our birthplace – on this Planet Earth.
Migrants from Riverdale, Maryland, formed our fundamental core,
Our “father” was Bob Dole, a prominent Kansas senator.

Native Kansans were hired to care for the newly-born “PPC kid”,
And these caregivers were extraordinary in the things that they did,
We thank you: Janice; Gina; Rick; Kevin; Barb; Joe; and Gene;
Yvonna; Charlotte; Karen; Deanna; Tom; and Pauleen.

At age fifteen, our birth name significantly changed,
And boy was it a “mouthful” (some called it “deranged”);
Human Resources Service and Information Center (H-R-S-I-C),
Was announced as our name for the whole world to see !!

The rationale for the change was to de-emphasize the word “Pay”,
‘Cause competitors might try a “hostile takeover” some day.
Though the new name emphasized H-R, it led to rhetoric,
The worse was the acronym became known as “Her-Sick”.

Shortly after our 21st birthday, another legal name change occurred,
Personnel Service Center we became (loud applause ‘twas heard !!)
That remains our name today as we turn twenty-five years of age,
We like it – it describes the business in which we engage.

A common theme through the years -- in our title, in our name,
Is that the word **Center** is constant – that has remained the same.
And how appropriate it is that this one word's remained intact,
It aptly describes our organization, our people, and impact.

In medical terms, a **Center**'s a cohesive group of cells,
Performing functions in concert to keep the body well.
And that's what we are – we're a team the sum of its parts,
Serving customers with brains, hands, and our hearts.

In mathematical terms, a **Center**'s the middle of a sphere,
A point equidistant from all points within the hemisphere.
PSC similarly functions within the center of Coastie's lives,
Pay we provide is essential for CG morale to survive.

In football terminology, a **Center** touches the ball on each play.
As the team strives to reach goals, the **Center**'s a mainstay.
Similarly, for Coast Guard goals to be reached, we at PSC must all serve,
Our critical customers – active, civilian, retired, and reserve.

We are proud to be **The Center** – and now a quarter century old,
We will strive to “age gracefully” as the upcoming years do unfold.
We pledge to remain innovative, vibrant, compassionate, engaged.
And fondly remembered when **The Center** reaches fifty years of age !!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PSC